

walks to raise money for national breast cancer research efforts and local breast cancer initiatives.

I am proud to be honorary co-chair for this year's Vermont Race For The Cure, along with my distinguished colleague, Senator JEFFORDS. The race will be held in Manchester on July 26. Last year our race was a wonderful community event, with more than 2,300 Vermonters running or walking in the race and with others joining in support through pledges and by cheering racers on. That effort led to \$84,000 in grants for nine projects throughout Vermont to support breast cancer treatment, education and survivor support.

The Race For The Cure is an important and successful effort to raise private funds for breast cancer screening, education, and treatment to reduce and one day eliminate this terrible disease. One woman somewhere in the United States is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes and one of its victims dies from the disease every twelve minutes. One in eight women will suffer from breast cancer in her lifetime, and it is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 35 to 54.

The private contributions raised by the Race For The Cure are a vital complement to the efforts of those of us in Congress who strive each year to secure federal funding to fight breast cancer.

We in Congress have made it clear that we plan to continue to increase research funding at the National Institutes of Health.

And just yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to guarantee at least \$135 million for Fiscal Year 1999 for the Department of Defense breast cancer research program. This program continues to spawn far-reaching innovations in medical research, and the seven-year total allocated under this program will rise to \$872 million, if this provision is enacted this year.

Seven years ago, working with the breast cancer survivor community, several of us launched this crusade to earmark a portion of the defense budget for this breast cancer research program, and over the years it has become a crucial supplement to other federally and privately sponsored research efforts.

Working together on these initiatives, and by supporting such private efforts as the annual Race For The Cure, we are drawing closer, year by year, to the day when we can eliminate the destruction and the pain of breast cancer from the lives of our wives, mothers and sisters.●

#### RECOGNITION OF OSSABAW ISLAND FOUNDATION AND IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TO PRESERVE NATURAL HABITATS

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Ossabaw Island Foundation and the Georgia Commissioner of Natural Resources for their

efforts to preserve Ossabaw Island, Georgia's first Heritage Preserve.

Georgia's high rate of population and economic growth have created statewide expansion into previously uninhabited areas. Efforts to preserve and protect endangered natural areas is vital to the well being of Georgia's environment.

Ossabaw Island is one of the few remaining barrier islands on the Atlantic Coast. The fragile ecosystems of the island should be preserved so that natural areas along the coast will work to protect estuaries, wildlife, marshes, and coastal shorelines. If Ossabaw Island remains in its natural state, it will provide needed protection for the mainland from Atlantic storms, permit the functioning of marshes which provide water and air purification essential to habitation of Georgia's mainland, and provide conditions not tainted by human intervention for environmental research.

I would like to commend the Ossabaw Island Foundation, a public/private partner with the State of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources, for diligently serving as a voice for the preservation of the island. The Foundation has worked to incorporate educational and cultural programs in the island's historical buildings and to provide appropriate access and utilization of the Ossabaw Heritage Preserve.

Through the efforts of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, Ossabaw Island was included on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Eleven Most Endangered Properties List of 1995. The island was also listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior in 1996.

The importance of preserving natural habitats is a common belief among the members of the Senate. We must not allow the natural beauty and resourcefulness of our nation to be sacrificed for lesser purposes. The benefits of protecting and preserving areas of natural habitat range from aesthetic to practical and must not be ignored.

Mr. President, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing the partnership and hard work of the Georgia Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Board of Trustees of the Ossabaw Island Foundation. Their combined efforts have protected and will continue to protect and ensure a beautiful environment on Georgia's Ossabaw Island for many years to come.●

#### NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to express my support and admiration to small business owners and entrepreneurs during the first week of June, otherwise known as National Small Business Week. It is appropriate that during this week of recognition that we honor the many contributions entrepreneurs have made to strengthen

our communities and our national economy.

As the Ranking Democrat of the Small Business Committee, I have followed the dramatic growth of thousands of small businesses and have worked to champion their success by increasing access to capital, expanding Women's Business Centers, improving business education and technical assistance, and reducing capital gains taxes. Under Democratic Leadership, the Small Business Administration now annually guarantees about \$10 billion in loans to small businesses, and has increased loans to women business-owners by 86 percent.

Small businesses are changing the face of the economy by creating jobs and bringing prosperity to small towns and cities across the country. Nationwide, small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employers and provide 67 percent of workers with their first jobs. Smaller firms are also more likely to be flexible and hire workers from many segments of the economy, including younger workers, older workers, women, minorities, and people interested in working part time.

In the state of Massachusetts, we have two outstanding business owners that deserve special recognition. Cassie Farmer, President and Roberta Adams, Vice President/Treasurer of New World Securities Associates, Inc. have been named State Small Business Persons of the Year by the Small Business Administration, and have been honored this week here in Washington.

Ms. Farmer and Ms. Adams began their security business just eight years ago with fifteen employees, one patrol car, and a few clients. They invested their personal savings to get the company off the ground. By 1997, their company has grown to employ 240 people with annual sales of \$5 million. The Dorchester-based company is not only the largest employer within the Dorchester/Roxbury/Mattapan area, but is also the largest women/minority owned security company in Massachusetts. I congratulate them on their success.●

#### JESS AND SELMA KAUFMAN CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jess and Selma Kaufman on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20.

Jess served in the United States Navy during World War II and was wounded at the Battle of Guadalcanal. On June 20, 1948, Selma Bruckner and Jess Kaufman were married in Brooklyn, New York. Now retired and living in Stratford, Connecticut, their marriage has been blessed by their children David, Susan and Steven.

Successful marriages represent real commitment and serious work, yet the rewards are among the greatest delights of life. We share your joy in the years accomplished, and wish you many more rich and fulfilling years of happiness together.